

Message Text

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61

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 132318Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5074

AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2808

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SP USUN

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA IN UN

REF: STATE 175358 (NODIS)

SUMMARY: DURING VISIT BY SPANISH CHARGE D'AFFAIRS 12 AUG
USUN WAS INFORMED OF SPANISH POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA.
DESPITE MOROCCAN CLAIM TO TERRITORY, SPAIN BELIEVES QUESTION
IS MATTER FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY RATHER THAN SECURITY COUNCIL,
BUT WISHES INFORM ALL MEMBERS OF SC, AS ORGAN OF MAINTENANCE
OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S
DESIRE COMPLY WITH UN RESES ON SUBJECT. END SUMMARY

1. ANTONIO ELIAS, SPANISH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, CALLED ON AMB
SCALI AFTERNOON 13 AUG TO INFORM US AS MEMBER OF SC OF LATEST
SPANISH VIEWS ON SPANISH SAHARA. ELIAS SAID THAT IN VIEW
OF MOROCCAN FONMIN LARAKI LUNCHEON FOR SC MEMBERS (MAURITANIA
WAS NOTABLY ABSENT) AND SPECIFICALLY IN VIEW OF TOAST BY
FONMIN LARAKI AT LUNCHEON, SPAIN WISHED TO INFORM EACH
MEMBER OF SC THAT IT WILL "SHORTLY" ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION
TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES SO THAT POPULATION OF
SAHARA MAY EXERCISE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH A
REFERENDUM WITHIN "A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME" AND WITH
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PARTICIPATION AND GUARANTEES OF UN.

2. ELIAS SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED NO SPECIFICS RE TYPE OF REFERENDUM BEYOND FACT UN WILL BE PRESENT AT REFERENDUM. HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GIVE SAME REPORT TO UNSYG WITHIN A FEW DAYS. SPANISH GOVT IS WILLING TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH GOVTS OF MOROCCO, MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA. ELIAS ADDED THAT GOVT OF MOROCCO HAD REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED MEETING WITH GOS 12 AUG. CONVERSATIONS IN MADRID WITH MORACCAN PREMIER AND FONMIN TOOK PLACE 13 AUG (ALIAS DID NOT KNOW RESULT.) DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH GOVTS OF MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED.

3. GOS BELIEVES IT IS TAKING CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE CONSIDERS GOM EXACERBATION OF SITUATION AND CLAIMS TO TERRITORY.

4. ELIAS REFERRED TO GOM MENTION OF USE OF FORCE AS THREAT AND STATED THAT GOS BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN MOVEMENT OF MOROCCAN MILITARY FORCES TOWARD SPANISH SAHARAN/MOROCCAN BORDER. ELIAS SAID GOS IS SUSPICIOUS BUT DOES NOT NECESSARILY FORESEE IMMINENT VIOLENT ACTION BY MOROCCANS. SPANISH THINK TROOP MOVEMENT PROBABLY MEANT TO IMPRESS MOROCCAN PUBLIC BY PROJECTION OF STRONG INTERNATIONAL POSTURE TOWARD SPAIN.

5. ELIAS STATED THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO REASSURE USG OF GOS DESIRE MAINTAIN PEACE IN AREA AND GUARANTEE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF SPANISH SAHARA, AND TO EMPHASIZE GOS DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH DECOLONIZATION PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN RESES. IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS, HE STATED VISIT OF MOROCCAN REPS TO SPAIN HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC. SPAIN HAS NOT SPECIFIC TIME PERIOD IN WHICH REFERENDUM WILL TAKE PLACE OTHER THAN "IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME". (ELIAS' PERSONAL INTERPRETATION IS THAT THIS QUOTATION MEANS EARLY 1975). WHEN ASKED WHAT OPTIONS REFERENDUM MAY INCLUDE, ELIAS COULD ONLY SAY INDEPENDENCE WILL BE ON OPTION.

6. AMB SCALI TOLD ELIAS USG APPRECIATED HIS BRIEFING AND WOULD FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN SPANISH SAHARA WITH ATTENTION AND GREAT CARE.

7. ON WAY OUT OF BUILDING, ELIAS INFORMED MISOFFS THAT SPANISH SAHARA REPORT TO UNSYG (PARA 2 ABOVE) WILL TAKE FORM OF GA DOCUMENT RATHER THAN SC DOCUMENT BECAUSE "SPANISH SAHARA IS QUESTION WHICH REALLY BELONGS IN COMITE OF 24 AND FOURTH COMITE OF GA." HE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE INSTRUCTED TO ADDRESS WALDHEIM'S OFFICE AS EARLY AS AUG 14.

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SCALI

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION CHANGED TO EXDIS PER S/S-O, MS.ELTZ 8/13/74.

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